THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) has provided assistance in the form of fifteen High Frequency fixed/mobile wireless sets and spare parts worth US dollar 73,485 during November, 1993.

(c) FAO mobileses International Donor Assistance to improve the Locust control capabilities of locust affected countries. Assistance by Australian International Development Assistance Bureau was provided to improve our communication network.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) Wireless sets are used for timely transmission of locust information for organising ground and aerial control operations.

Series of earthquakes since September 30, 1993 quakes in Maharashtra

2108. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Latur-Osmanabad belt in Maharashtra has continued to receive a series of earthquakes even after September 30, 1993 quake, though with milder intensity;

(b) if so, what further damage to life and property has been caused by the frequent tremors since the devastating quake of September 30, 1993;

(c) whether the frequent earth quakes have kept lacs of inhabitants of the area out in the open fields for months together; and

(d) what steps have been taken and are being taken with or without Central assistance to resettle the victims on a stable footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN T MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SH ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The After-quakes have not cau any damage.

(c) No, Sir. Govt. of Manarass have provided temporary shelters in areas affected by the earthquake.

(d) The measures taken for re-setti the earthquake victims include following:—

(i) The victims were provided w food, drinking water, milk, ck utensils, medical aid, electric temporary shelters, etc.

(ii) The villages, destroyed extensiv are being relocated at safer plac

(iii) Seeds have been distributed the farmers for Rabi season.

(iv) A comprehensive rehabilitat programme has been planned w World Bank assistance in the ar of housing and infrastructure, so and economic rehabilitation, other related sectors.

Processing of paddy production

2109. SHRI BHUPINDER SIN MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICU TURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that farm are allowed to process their own pad production to marketable rice with any licence/permit;

(b) if so, what are the conditions l down for licence/permit;

(c) if not, what are the reasons the for; and

(d) in what manner the present wo ing but outdated rice-shelling machir is efficient as compared to world-st dards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN T MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SH ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.